



## WILLIAM T. PECORA AWARD

### Landsat 7 Team

#### **In recognition of outstanding contributions towards understanding the Earth's land surface and coastal regions**

The Landsat 7 mission is making major advances in our understanding of the Earth's land and coastal oceans and the role of human activities as a force for global change. It has achieved unprecedented successes in satellite and sensor performance, mission management and operations, data acquisition and distribution, and science. Landsat 7 has operated flawlessly since its launch on April 15, 1999. The Landsat 7 Team has performed at the highest levels of skill and competence throughout the mission. Their efforts have ensured that Landsat 7 continues the flow of science and applications information to users worldwide that started with the launch of Landsat 1 in 1972. The Landsat 7 Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus (ETM+) sensor continues this multispectral, 30-meter resolution record and provides new capabilities, including 15-meter panchromatic and 60-meter thermal-infrared bands, and improved radiometric calibration. The automated Long-Term Acquisition Plan (LTAP), a strategy for scheduling Landsat 7 collections to minimize cloud cover and acquire the most useful scenes, has radically improved our ability to populate the data archive. As of August 2002, over 280,000 scenes have been added to the U.S. archive; an additional 300 scenes per day are transmitted to international ground receiving stations.

The Landsat 7 Team is a highly successful partnership between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), with early involvement of the Department of Defense and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as strong contributions from industry and the academic community. Raytheon (formerly Hughes) Santa Barbara Research Center built the ETM+ instrument, Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space built the spacecraft, and a Boeing Delta 2 rocket placed the satellite safely in orbit. The Landsat 7 Project Office at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center was responsible for overseeing the development and launch of the satellite, developing the ground system and LTAP, and calibrating the ETM+. The USGS is responsible for operating the satellite and receiving, processing, archiving, and distributing the data through its Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) Data Center. The Landsat 7 Science Team evaluated data quality and demonstrated the value of Landsat 7 for understanding the annual cycle of vegetation growth; deforestation; agricultural land use; erosion; snow accumulation and melt; fresh-water reservoir replenishment; and urbanization.

The Landsat 7 satellite mission is realizing a long-held dream for the entire Landsat program: to have continuing seasonal, global, high-resolution data for a myriad of important science and applications uses. In recognition of their accomplishments and dedication, the Department of the Interior and NASA take great pleasure in presenting the 2001 William T. Pecora Group Award to the Landsat 7 Team.

Administrator  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Secretary of the Interior